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at least one outer pocket having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said at least one outer pocket independent of a ball being located in said inner enclosed space.

Please cancel claim 23.

ADDITIONAL FEES

No additional fees are deemed due herein. However, if any fees are required for any reason, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 13-2515.

REMARKS

Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figures 1-3 and 30, 31 and 32 of the Drawings.

Figs. 1, 2, 30, 31 and 32 were amended to make the corrections and revisions as shown in "red" on the enclosed Sheets 1 and 6 of Drawing.

Specifically, reference numeral 60 has been corrected in Fig. 2 such that the carrying handle is referenced in both Figs. 1 and 2 by element 60.

In addition, the second end of strap member 90 has been identified as 79 in both Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 2 has been corrected to make loop 90 visible and to clearly show elements

76, 78, 80 and 90 thereby identifying the same elements with the same reference numerals in Figs. 1 and 2.

The specification, as noted below, has been amended such that the written description on Page 15 correctly identifies and connects elements 64, 76, and 80, it being noted that element 80 is now numbered in Fig. 2.

In Fig. 30, the second reference numeral 748 has been replaced with reference numeral 752.

In Fig. 31, the second reference numeral 768 has been replaced with reference numeral 772.

In Fig. 32, the second reference numeral 788 has been replaced with reference numeral 792.

The specification, as noted below, has been amended such that the written description on Pages 22 and 23 correctly identifies the elements 748 and 752 in Fig. 30, the elements 768 and 772 in Fig. 31 and the elements 788 and 792 in Fig. 31.

The specification, as noted below, has been amended to properly describe Figures 31 and 32.

Enclosed are revised formal Sheets 1 and 6 of the Drawings reflecting the corrections and revisions shown in "red" as

referenced above. No new matter has been added in making these corrections and revisions.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the drawing corrections and revisions.

With the above corrections and revisions, the Examiner's objection to the specification and drawings have been overcome.

Specification

The Paragraphs beginning at line 6 and ending at line 18 of Page 15 have been rewritten, as setforth below, to make the description consistent with the figures:

As illustrated in Fig. 1, a carrying handle, shown generally as 60, has a first strap 64 having a first end 68 and a second end 70. The first end 68 is operatively secured to the outer member 34 at location 72. The second end 70 is formed into a loop, which is adapted to receive a first ring-shaped strap-connecting member 76.

The carrying handle 60 includes a second strap 90 which is formed into a open

loop member which is operatively secured at a first end 92 to the outer member 34 at a selected location on the outer member 34. The open loop strap 90 has a second end 79 which is operatively connected to the strap connecting member 76 to form a carrying handle for carrying and transporting the bag and which permits relative movement of the strap connecting member 76 within the open loop strap 90.

As such, the written description of Figs. 1 through 3 are now consistent with the drawings.

The Paragraphs beginning at line 8 of Page 22 and ending at line 3 of Page 23 have been rewritten, as setforth below, to make the description consistent with the figures:

Fig. 30 illustrates a circular shaped ball bag 740, which is a variation of Fig. 14 with the addition of a ruggerized carrier, comprising an outer member 742 having an opening 746 extending in a

selected direction on the outer member wherein a portion of the opening is at least substantially perpendicular to the handle 748 including a fastening member 752, e.g., a zipper, operatively connected to the opening, and a ruggedized carrier shown generally as 750.

Fig. 31 is a front elevational view of still yet another embodiment of a circular shaped ball bag 760 comprising a variation of Fig. 12 with the addition of a ruggedized carrier. The ball bag 760 comprising an outer member 762 having an opening 766 extending in a selected direction on the outer member 742 wherein a portion of the opening 766 is at least substantially perpendicular to the handle 768 wherein the opening 766 includes a fastening member, e.g., a zipper 772, operatively connected to

the opening 766 and a ruggedized carrier 770.

Fig. 32 is a front elevational view of still yet another embodiment of a football shaped ball bag 780 comprising a variation of Fig. 8 with the addition of a ruggedized carrier. The football shaped ball bag 780 comprising an outer member 782 having an opening 786 extending in a selected direction on the outer member 782, similar to the location of the fastener 152 in Figs. 8 and 9, wherein a portion of the opening 786 is at least substantially perpendicular to the handle 788 wherein the opening 786 includes a fastening member, e.g., a zipper 792, operatively connected to the opening 786 and a ruggedized carrier 790.

As such, the written description of Fig. 31 references that Fig. 30 comprises a variation of Fig. 12 with the addition of a ruggedized carrier and the Fig. 32 is a variation of Fig. 8 with

the addition of a ruggedized carrier. Further, Figs. 30, 31 and 32 are now consistent with the drawings.

Nio new matter has been added with the above amendments. With the above amendments, the Examiner's objection to the specification have been overcome.

Claims

Claims 1 through 23 were pending in this Application. Claims 1, 18, 21 have been amended. Claim 23 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1 through 22 remain in this Application.

Rejection of Claims 1-17 and 21-23 Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-17 and 21-23 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In making this rejection, the Examiner stated as follows:

There is no original disclosure of a bag comprising a "a single outer member" as

recited in claims 1 and 21. Claims 2-16, 22, and 23 include the same new matter because they include all of the limitations of their respective parent claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for several important reasons.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the specification at Page 15, lines 1 through 5 that states as follows:

The zipper 52 when in the closed position defines a secured opening, that is an athletic or other ball inserted therein is retained within the interior of the outer member 34 and cannot fallout of or be removed from the outer member 34 of bag 30 when the zipper is closed. [Underlining added for emphasis.]

The above cited language clearly provides an antecedent basis for reciting that "said bag includes an outer member

defining an interior and an exterior surface" such that a ball is retained within the interior of the outer member.

In order to sharply define this structure and in order to avoid the use the term "single outer member" which, the Examiner found objectionable, the language of Claims 1 and 21 has been amended to delete the word "single" and to replace the same with the words --an interior and-- such that the language now recites:

"an outer member defining an interior and an exterior surface configured in the shape of a ball".

Further, the language as set forth in the specification as referenced above provides an antecedent basis for the use of the same language in the claims.

For all of the above reasons and with the above amendments to claims 1 and 21, the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-17 and 21-23 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, has been overcome in that the subject matter is described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) at the time the application

was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

**Rejection of Claims 7-17 Under
35 USC 112, Second Paragraph**

The Examiner rejected Claims 7-17 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In making this rejection, the Examiner stated as follows:

Claim 1, the claim from which these claims depend, is specific to the embodiments illustrated in Figures 30-32 because they are the only embodiments, which have the claimed handle construction. Thus, these claims are drawn to new matter because none of those embodiments includes an outer pocket.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for several important reasons;

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to that

portion of claim 1, as amended, which states as follows:

a carrying handle operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member at a location other than the opening, said carrying handle having an elongated strap having a first end and a second end, said first end being operatively connected to said exterior surface of said outer member, said second end terminating in a connecting member, and a strap member having a mounting end and cooperating connecting member, said mounting end being operatively mounted on the exterior surface and said cooperating connecting member interacting with said connecting member forming a carrying handle wherein said connecting member and said cooperating connecting member are moveable relative to each other;

The above language reads on Figs. 1-4, 14, 30, 31 and 32 by virtue of the carrying handle element. Also, it is respectfully

noted that the embodiments of Figs. 1-4 and 14 include and disclose an outer pocket.

To support this argument, set forth below is a comparison Table showing: (i) the applicable carrying handle element language in column 1; (ii) a comparison of that language to Figs. 1-4 and 14 in column 2 using the applicable reference numerals; and (iii) a comparison of that language to Fig. 30 (which applies to Figs. 31 and 32) in column 3 using the applicable reference numerals including the "explanatory reference numerals" as shown on the "red" lined Figs. And labeled A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

ANALYSIS OF CLAIM 1 LANGUAGE VERSES FIGS. 1, 14, 30, 31 AND 32

Claim 1	Figs 1-4 and 14	Figs 30 (Applies to Figs. 31 and 32)
a carrying handle operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member at a location other than the opening, said carrying handle having an elongated strap having a first end and a second end, said first end being operatively connected	a carrying handle 60 operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member 34 at a location other than the opening, said carrying handle 60 having an elongated strap 64 having a first end 72 and a second end 70 , said first end 72 being	a carrying handle 750 operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member 742 at a location other than the opening, said carrying handle 758 having an elongated strap A having a first end B and a second end C , said first end B being operatively connected to said

Claim 1	Figs 1-4 and 14	Figs 30 (Applies to Figs. 31 and 32)
to said exterior surface of said outer member, said second end terminating in a connecting member, and a strap member having a mounting end and cooperating connecting member, said mounting end being operatively mounted on the exterior surface and said cooperating connecting member interacting with said connecting member forming a carrying handle wherein said connecting member and said cooperating connecting member are moveable relative to each other; and	operatively connected to said exterior surface of said outer member 34 , said second end 70 terminating in a connecting member 76 , and a strap member 90 having a mounting end 92 and cooperating connecting member 79 , said mounting end 92 being operatively mounted on the exterior surface 34 and said cooperating connecting member 79 interacting with said connecting member 76 forming a carrying handle wherein said connecting member 76 and said cooperating connecting member 79 are moveable relative to each other; and	exterior surface of said outer member 742 , said second end C terminating in a connecting member D , and a strap member E having a mounting end F and cooperating connecting member G , said mounting end F being operatively mounted on the exterior surface 742 and said cooperating connecting member G interacting with said connecting member D forming a carrying handle wherein said connecting member D and said cooperating connecting member G are moveable relative to each other; and

As is shown by the above table, the language of claim 1, including specifically the language defining the carrying handle elements, covers the embodiments shown in Figs. 1-4, 14, 30, 31 and 32.

Claim 1, the claim from which these claims depend, is not specific only to the embodiments illustrated in Figures 30-32

because the embodiments illustrated in Figures 30-32 are not the only embodiments which have the claimed handle construction in that the embodiments of Figs. 1-4 and 14 have the same construction. Thus, claims 7-17 are not drawn to new matter because the embodiments of Figs. 1-4 and 14 include an outer pocket.

For all of the above reasons, the Examiner's rejection of Claims 7-17 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, has been overcome in that the subject matter is described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

**Rejection of Claim 23 Under
35 USC 112, Second Paragraph**

The Examiner rejected Claim 23 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In making this rejection, the Examiner stated as follows:

This claim has the same new matter as claims
7-17.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the fact that the subject matter of claim 23 has been incorporated into the subject matter of claim 21 and claim 23 has been cancelled.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, as applied to claim 21, which now includes the subject matter of claim 23, for the same reasons, that the rejection of Claims 7-17 were traversed. Claim 21, as amended, and claim 22 which is dependent on claim 21, include the carrying handle and outer pocket which are supported by the embodiments of Figs. 1-4 and 14.

For all of the above reasons, the Examiner's rejection of Claim 23, which applies to claim 21 in that the subject matter of claim 23 has been incorporated into claim 21, under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, has been overcome in that the subject matter is described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) at the time the application was filed, had

possession of the claimed invention.

Objection to the Drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(A)

The Examiner objected to the Drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

In making this objection, the Examiner stated as follows:

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to illustrate a bag having the claimed handle construction and an outer pocket. No new matter may be added.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the same reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of claims 7-17 above under 37 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, in that the embodiments of Figs. 1-4 and 14 illustrate both the claimed carrying handle and claimed outer pocket. Therefore, the present drawings comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a) and the specification, as amended, now conforms the description of the figures with the figures.

For all of the above reasons, the Examiner's objection to the Drawings under 37 CFR 1.83a(a) has been overcome.

Rejection of Claim 18-20 Under 35 USC 102(b)

Or In The Alternative Under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 18-20 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 37 USC 1103 (a) as obvious over Eaton et al (Eaton).

In making this rejection, the Examiner stated as follows:

It is submitted that Eaton's pocket inherently "protrudes outwardly" because it is on the exterior of the bag. Furthermore, the pocket will "protrude outwardly" when an item is contained therein. Alternatively, it would have been obvious to modify Eaton's pocket to protrude outwardly because it would be easier to open for the insertion of contents.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of claims 18-20 under 35 USC 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) for several important reasons.

First, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to further study Figs. 1 through 4 of Eaton which as drawings in a

Design Patent. As such, there is no text description of the structural details with reference numerals as is typical in a Utility Patent. If so, both the Applicant and the Examiner would have the benefit of that disclosure for purposes of this rejection.

The description of the Figures in a Design Patent, together with the drawing figures illustrating the design, constitute the teachings and disclosure of the design to persons skilled in the art. A careful reading of the description of the figures do not reference or disclose a so-called "pocket" or describe the "square elements" illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawing.

As such, the Examiner, and the Applicant, must exercise their judgement as to what is depicted by the so-called "square elements" in Figs. 3 and 4. After further consider, Applicant still maintains its view that the "square elements" clearly do not depict "outwardly protruding" pockets for the following reasons. If the "square elements" were pockets, it is reasonable to conclude that the description of the figures would have referred to the same as "pockets" or some other similar language in the same manner that the description references the

"transparent netting".

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted by Applicant, after further review and study, that the so-called "square element" is in all probability an identification name tag or card holder (the "Identification Holder") having a plastic or clear outside surface, as depicted by the parallel lines constituting the "shading" of a transparent or reflective surface. As such, the person could slip in or insert a name identification tag into the Identification Holder to facilitate the return of the bag to the designated person on the nametag if the bag became lost or misplaced.

As such, an Identification Holder may be a "pocket", but it does not constitute a pocket which is "protruding outwardly", even when a thin, identification name tag or card is inserted therein. Clearly, the "square element" does not disclose, suggest or teach, an outer pocket configured to be expanded to receive an article as taught by the present invention.

The suggestions advanced by the Examiner as to Eaton disclosing a "pocket" which is structured to be "outwardly protruding" for the reasons made by the Examiner appear to be

inconsistent with the function of an Identification Holder, which Applicant verily believes, is the most rational explanation and conclusion of the teachings of the "square element" of Eaton.

In conclusion, the teachings of Eaton appear to be ambiguous for the reasons set forth above, but it is unambiguous that Eaton does not disclose, suggest or teach an outer pocket of the structure shown in Figs. 1-4 and 14 of the present invention, that is, of a pocket configured to be expanded to receive an article, such as keys, wallets or the like.

It is respectfully submitted that in this instance where the teachings of Eaton are ambiguous and there is more than one reasonable explanation of the disclosure, that the benefit of the ambiguity should be resolved in favor of Applicant on the basis that a person having ordinary skill in the art would not obviously conclude that an Identification Holder which is thin in structure and which is typically found on the outside of luggage, would suggest to such person to include an "outwardly protruding" pocket configured to be expanded to receive an article on a ball bag.

Claim 18 has been amended to sharply and clearly define the outer pocket to be "configured" to be expanded to receive an article which applicant verily believes defines patentable subject matter over Eaton.

For all of the above reasons, the Examiner's rejection of Claims 18-20, as amended, under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 37 USC 1103 (a) as obvious over Eaton et al (Eaton) has been overcome.

**Rejection of Claim 21 Under 35 USC 102(b)
Or In The Alternative Under 35 USC 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected Claim 21 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 37 USC 1103 (a) as obvious over Eaton et al (Eaton).

In making this rejection, the Examiner stated as follows:

A portion of Eaton's fastening member extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to the ends of the handle. Furthermore, it is submitted that Eaton's pocket inherently "protrudes outwardly" because it is on the exterior of the bag. Furthermore, the pocket will "protrude

outwardly" when an item is contained therein. Alternatively, it would have been obvious to modify Eaton's pocket to protrude outwardly because it would be easier to open for the insertion of contents.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of claim 21 under 35 USC 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) for several important reasons.

First, Claim 21 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 23 as set forth above. As such, it is the combination of the fastening member, wherein a portion thereof extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to the ends of the handle, and the carrying handle structure, as claimed, that is novel for the same reasons set forth above with respect to the arguments made with respect to the rejections of Claims 7-17 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, based on the structure of the carrying handle relative to Figs. 1-4, 14 and 30-33.

For all of the above reasons, the Examiner's rejection of Claim 21 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 37 USC 103(a) as obvious over Eaton et al

(Eaton) has been overcome.

Rejection of Claim 22 Under USC 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claim 21 under 37 USC 103(a) as obvious over the art as applied to claim 21. In making this rejection, the Examiner stated as follows:

Furthermore, to have provided Eaton's bag with an additional exterior pocket would have been an obvious duplication of parts.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of claim 22 under 35 USC 103(a) for several important reasons.

First, Claim 22 defines patentable subject matter in view of Eaton for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 21.

Further, claim 22 is dependent on claim 21 and is being used to vary the scope of an independent claim. Applicant is not relying on providing an additional exterior pocket for patentability.

For all of the above reasons, the Examiner's rejection of Claim 22 under 37 USC 103(a) as applied to claim 21 has been overcome.

Claims 1-17 and 23 Are Not Rejectable over The Prior Art

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates that the subject matter of claims 1-17 and 23 appear to define patentable subject matter. Since the subject matter of Claim 23 was incorporated into claim 21, claim 21 appears to be define patentable subject matter, it being noted that claim 23 has been cancelled. Claim 1-17 and 21 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Summary

Applicant acknowledges that Friedler, US Patent 5,839,577, is no longer being used to reject any claims.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement that "Eaton clearly discloses a pocket" on the basis that Eaton does not disclose a pocket in the sense of a structured pocket member configured to be expanded to receive an article as disclosed and claimed herein.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner find that the additional arguments advanced herein with respect to Eaton et al on the basis that the "square element" of Eaton appears,

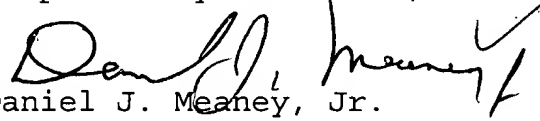
in reality, to more closely conform more to a "name tag identification holder" than to an "outwardly protruding" pocket.

Applicant urges the Examiner to decide this issue for in favor of the Applicant on the arguments so advance herein as being persuasive.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowability and a formal Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner determines that allowable subject matter is present in this Application but has further objections to the claim language such that further modification to the claim language would overcome such objections of the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned for the purposes of conducting a phone interview so that agreement may be reached on wording acceptable to the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,


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) GROUP ART UNIT
SERIAL NO: 09/527,066) 3727
)
FILED: March 17, 2000) EXAMINER
) STEPHEN P. GARBE
FOR: BAG FOR CARRYING A BALL)
)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The Paragraphs beginning at line 6 and ending at line 18 of Page 15 has been amended as follows:

As illustrated in Fig. 1, a carrying handle, shown generally as 60, has a first strap 64 having a first end 68 and a second end 70. The [second] first end 68 is operatively secured to the outer member 34 at location 72. The second end 70 is formed into a loop, which is adapted to receive a first ring-shaped strap-connecting member 76 [having a hook 80 operatively thereto].

The carrying handle 60 includes a second strap 90 which, in this embodiment, is formed into a open loop member which is operatively secured at a first end 92 to the outer member 34 at a selected location [92] on the outer member 34. The open loop strap 90 has a second end 79 which is operatively connected to the strap connecting member 76 to form a carrying handle for

carrying and transporting the bag and which permits relative movement of the strap connecting member 76 within the open loop strap 90. A connecting member 78 is operatively connected to the second end 79 and a hook 80 is operatively connected to connecting member 78.

The Paragraphs beginning at line 8 of Page 22 and ending at line 3 of Page 23 have been amended as follows:

Fig. 30 illustrates a circular shaped ball bag 740, which is a variation of Fig. 14 with the addition of a ruggedized carrier, comprising an outer member 742 having an opening 746 extending in a selected direction on the outer member wherein a portion of the opening is at least substantially perpendicular to the handle 748 including a fastening member [748] 752, e.g., a zipper, operatively connected to the opening, and a ruggedized carrier shown generally as 750.

Fig. 31 is a front elevational view of still yet another embodiment of a circular shaped ball bag 760 comprising a [combination of Figs. 12 and 14] variation of Fig. 12 with the addition of a ruggedized carrier. The ball bag 760 comprising an outer member 762 having an opening 766 extending in a

selected direction on the outer member 742 wherein a portion of the opening 766 is at least substantially perpendicular to the handle 768 wherein the opening 766 includes a fastening member, e.g., a zipper [768] 772, operatively connected to the opening 766 and a ruggedized carrier 770.

Fig. 32 is a front elevational view of still yet another embodiment of a football shaped ball bag 780 comprising a [combination of Figs. 8 and 14] a variation of Fig. 8 with the addition of a ruggedized carrier. The football shaped ball bag 780 comprising an outer member 782 having an opening 786 extending in a selected direction on the outer member 782, similar to the location of the fastener 152 in Figs. 8 and 9, wherein a portion of the opening 786 is at least substantially perpendicular to the handle 788 wherein the opening 786 includes a fastening member, e.g., a zipper [788] 792, operatively connected to the opening 786 and a ruggedized carrier 790.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 18, 21 and 23 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A bag for carrying a ball wherein said bag includes a [single] an outer member defining an interior and

an exterior surface [and] configured in the shape of a ball and having an opening positioned therein for inserting and removing a ball from the [single] outer member, said bag comprising

a carrying handle operatively connected in a predetermined position to said [single] outer member at a location other than the opening, said carrying handle having an elongated strap⁶⁰ having a first¹⁴ end and a second⁷⁰ end, said first end being operatively connected to said exterior surface of said outer member, said second end terminating in a connecting member⁷⁶, and a [loop] strap⁹⁰ member having a mounting end and cooperating connecting member⁷, said mounting end being operatively mounted on the exterior surface and said cooperating connecting member interacting with said connecting member forming a carrying handle wherein said connecting member and said cooperating connecting member are moveable relative to each other; and

a fastening member located within said opening and extending in a selected direction on said [single] outer member wherein at least a portion thereof extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said carrying handle, said carrying handle being positioned to refrain from interfering

with the inserting and removing of a ball from said [single] outer member defining the bag.

2. The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a round ball.

3. The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a basketball.

4. The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a baseball.

5. The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a soccer ball.

6. The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a football.

7. The bag of claim 7 further comprising at least one outer pocket positioned on the exterior surface of said outer member at a location other than the opening and having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said one outer pocket.

8. The bag of claim 1 wherein said one outer pocket is formed of a solid fabric.

9. The bag of claim 7 wherein said one outer pocket is formed of a mesh fabric.

10. The bag of claim 7 wherein said one outer pocket includes an interior cavity and said entryway communicates with and provides access to said interior cavity.

11. The bag of claim 7 wherein said entryway includes a zipper which

has an open position and a closed position, said zipper when in an open position affording access to the interior cavity of said one outer pocket.

12. The bag of claim 7 further comprising

a flap operatively connected to at least one of said entryway and said exterior surface of the outer member, said flap having an open position and a closed position, said flap when in an open position affording access through said entryway to the interior cavity of said one outer pocket.

13. The bag of claim 7 wherein said outer pocket includes a second fastening member which cooperates with a mating member located on at least one of a flap and exterior surface of the outer member.

14. The bag of claim 7 wherein said second fastening member and said mating member are mating elements defining a hook and loop fastener.

15. The bag of claim 7 wherein said second fastening member is at least one of a button and a button hole and said mating member is the other of said at least one of a button and a button hole.

16. The bag of claim 7 wherein said second fastening member is at least one of a rotatable fastener and an aperture for receiving a rotatable fastener and said mating member is the other of said at least one of a rotatable fastener and an aperture for receiving a rotatable fastener.

17. The bag of claim 9 wherein said mesh fabric is formed of an elastic material.

18. (Twice Amended) A bag for holding a ball comprising
an outer member having an interior and an exterior surface
configured in the shape of a ball and defining an inner enclosed

space, said exterior surface including an opening formed therein in a selected direction and in communication with said inner enclosed space for affording the insertion and removal of ball therefrom;

a carrying handle having a first end and a second end operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member at a location other than the opening;

a fastening member having an open and a closed position, said fastening member being operatively connected to said opening wherein at least a portion thereof extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first end and said second end of the carrying handle and being adapted to make said opening an unsecured opening when said fastening member is in the open position and adapted to make said opening a secured opening when said fastening member is in a closed position; and

at least one outer pocket configured to be expanded to receive an article positioned on and protruding outwardly from the exterior surface of said outer member at a location other than the opening and having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said one outer pocket.

19. The bag of claim 18 having at least two outer pockets positioned on said exterior surface of the outer member and protruding outwardly at a location other than said opening and spaced from said carrying handle, said at least one outer pocket having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said at least one outer pocket independent of a ball being located in said inner enclosed space.

20. The bag of claim 18 wherein said carrying handle is positioned at least substantially perpendicular to at least a portion of said opening.

21. (Amended) A bag for holding a ball comprising
a [single] outer member having an interior and an exterior surface configured in the shape of a ball and defining an inner enclosed space, said exterior surface including an opening formed therein in a selected direction and in communication with said inner enclosed space for affording the insertion and removal of ball from said [single] outer member;

a carrying handle having a first end and a second end operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member at a location other than the opening, said carrying handle being operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member at a location other than the opening, said carrying handle having an elongated strap having a first end and a second end, said first end being operatively connected to said

exterior surface of said outer member, said second end terminating in a connecting member, and a loop member having a mounting end and cooperating connecting member, said mounting end being operatively mounted on the exterior surface and said cooperating connecting member interacting with said connecting member forming a carrying handle wherein said connecting member and said cooperating connecting member are moveable relative to each other;

a fastening member having an open and a closed position, said fastening member being operatively connected to said opening wherein at least a portion thereof extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first end and said second end of the carrying handle and being adapted to make said opening an unsecured opening when said fastening member is in the open position and adapted to make said opening a secured opening when said fastening member is in a closed position and

at least one outer pocket positioned on and protruding outwardly from the exterior surface of said [single] outer member at a location other than the opening and having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from

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said one outer pocket.

22. The bag of claim 21 having at least two outer pockets positioned on said exterior surface of the outer member and protruding outwardly at a location other than said opening and spaced from said carrying handle, said at least one outer pocket having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said at least one outer pocket independent of a ball being located in said inner enclosed space.

Please cancel claim 23.

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